Since the beginning of “intelligent” civilization, mankind has always wondered about where we come from, and where we’re going. Over the centuries, many theories have been formulated. In 1929 an astronomer named Edwin Hubble made some important observations that distant galaxies seemed to be moving away not only from each other, but from us as well, meaning that the universe is expanding. This important discovery leads us to one logical conclusion; if the universe is expanding, then surely if we were to wind back the clocks and go back in time all those billions of years ago, we would find that the universe once existed as a single point, and this leads us to *the big bang theory.*

13.8 billion years ago, the universe was very different to what we know it to be today, it was just a high density, high pressure point until a spectacular explosion occurred, which resulted in the universe being born. Although we haven’t yet been able to prove that the big bang actually happened, we do have some clues such like the fact that the universe is expanding, and it is still the most universally accepted model of the universe. The idea of the universe having a finite past is credited to many of the great thinkers of the past, including Persian born Muslim philosopher Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali.

A particle accelerator is an apparatus for accelerating subatomic particles (particles that are smaller than atoms) to high velocities by means of electric or electromagnetic fields. The accelerated particles are generally made to collide with other particles, either as a research technique or for the generation of high-energy X-rays and gamma rays. 100 hundred meters below the border of Switzerland and France there is a particle accelerator known as the Large Hadron Collider (or CERN supercollider) which scientists are currently running experiments on to try and prove the big bang theory, as well as better understand what exactly happened at the time the universe was created.

By smashing protons together with enough force and speed, the CERN supercollider will cause protons to break apart into smaller atomic subparticles. These tiny subparticles are very unstable and only exist for a fraction of a second before decaying or recombining with other subparticles. According to the [big bang theory](https://science.howstuffworks.com/dictionary/astronomy-terms/big-bang-theory.htm), all matter in the early universe consisted of these tiny subparticles. As the universe expanded and cooled, these particles combined to form larger particles like protons and neutrons; in essence, they formed the universe.

The funny thing is, these protons existed before the experiment; they had, in a way, their own individual stories, until they were made to collide, then their stories would forever be intertwined and told as one. Much like ours.

You see, I still believe that we were destined to meet; that life served as a particle accelerator, constantly taking us closer towards one another. Until it finally happened, we met, and our two separate tales became one. And the spectacular explosion that was our love caused ripples throughout space and time and created a new universe, one in which our story will never be forgotten. Although I only met you in the latter parts of my life, it does get hard to remember a time when you weren’t in my life, in some capacity. And even if now we’re just strangers with all these memories, you still exist in my mind, as an important part of me that will always be remembered.

For the first time in years I started a new year without you and I tried to hide it, but it was really hard for me to pretend like I was okay. I read the letter you wrote for me to read on our first new year’s eve together and I don’t have too much pride to admit I cried. I thought of the first time I read it; I was at a beach party in Singapore and I had to step out of the crowd because I literally fell to my knees because I couldn’t breathe. And then the clock struck 12 and everyone around me was celebrating but I was standing there like a weirdo, reading your letter. I remember feeling so content and happy at that moment.

I continued crying as I went on to read all the letters you’d ever written me, yes I still have all of them, even the not-so-serious ones. The beautiful thing is that they weren’t sad tears, I mean yes it hurt, but I was smiling as the tears rolled down my cheeks because it reminded me of how special you are, and just how real we were.

I wish I had met you earlier in life, so that we could have had some more time together before I fucked everything up. And I know you’re not coming back and I know exactly why, but I can’t help myself from still hoping you’ll be my forever, even if I know that’s not going to happen. I have been trying to make peace with the fact that you’re gone and most days I am able to pretend that I’m okay. At the very least, I know you’ll never be truly gone, because the ones we love never truly leave us, they’re always with us, in our hearts.